Technology and our Rights

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गृह मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS

AZAD BHARAT KE APNE KANOON
From 1st July 2024

Strengthening Law with the Aid of Technology

- Modern Justice System
- Integration of **Forensic investigation** into Judicial Process
- **Digital** records and **Technical** records incorporated in documents
- Appearence of **witnesses**, **accused**, **experts** and **victims** in courts through **Electronic means** also

Scan it

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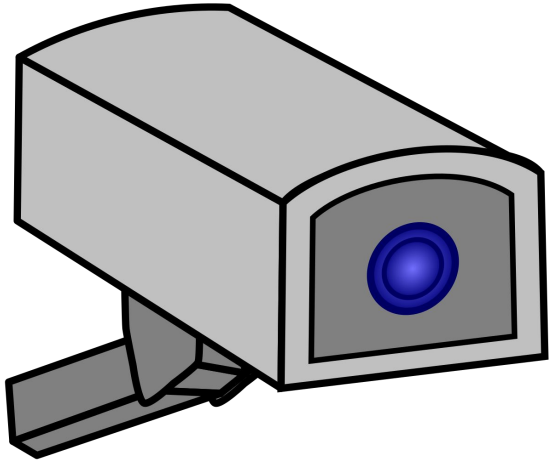
Technology is a mixed bag …

- National Security
- Law and order
- Faster processing
- Even protection from human bias … (*We trust in machines*)

On the other hand:
Right to privacy (life)
Right to freedom (of speech & expression)

Technology can also be used by the State to target opposition, journalists, protestors, towards stifling dissent.

Basic components of the digital surveillance system



Data

Patterns

Identification

Table 2.1: City-wise CCTV camera coverage in India (Private sources)

Name of city	Number of CCTV cameras	Cameras per square mile
Delhi	436,600	1446.03
Chennai	282,126	614.56
Hyderabad	440,299	157.14
Mumbai	63,598	145.13
Indore	200,600	133.29
Lucknow	13,440	99.74
Kolkata	22,316	56.28
Bangalore	14,927	17.61

“Facial Recognition Technology software systems are being hooked up to a spreading network of closed-circuit television (CCTV) by multiple state-owned agencies to identify people on a real-time basis (Mukul & Sasi, 2021)”

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- Status of Policing In India Report 2023 (Lokniti)

“States such as Delhi (in 2015) and Himachal Pradesh (in 2020) launched **predictive policing strategies**, which include crime mapping and analytics using artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms for future predictions of crimes and mapping out ‘hotspots’ for certain types of crimes.”

Also in .. Telangana, Punjab, Bhopal, …

Data in New Delhi's Predictive Policing System

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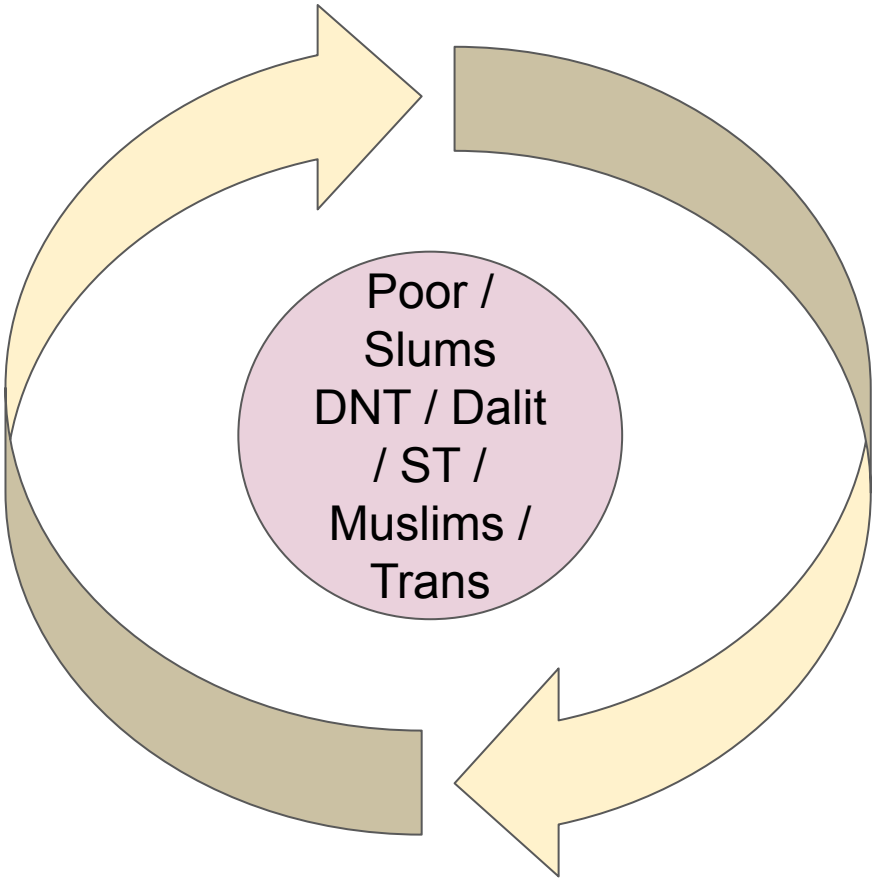
ABSTRACT

In 2015, Delhi Police announced plans for predictive policing. The Crime Mapping, Analytics and Predictive System (CMAPS) would be implemented in India's capital, for live spatial hotspot mapping of crime, criminal behavior patterns and suspect analysis. Four

1 INTRODUCTION

As of 2019, law enforcement agencies across India are in the process of deploying machine learning systems for crime prevention, criminal tracking, and better allocation of resources. In Chennai, one of the major Indian metropolises with a population of 11 mil-

Vidushi Marda and Shivangi Narayan. 2020. Data in New Delhi's Predictive Policing System. In FAT* '20: Proceedings of ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency, January 27–30, 2020, Barcelona, Spain. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 8 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3351095.3372865



Cycle of Confirmation Bias
Constructs “criminal” status

Assumed Criminality

More cameras, more monitoring

Lack alternative civic services

Measurement and Recording Errors

Some technology itself has higher rate of error for darker skin color people

There is no statistically significant relationship between the CCTVs available with police stations and the rates of total cognisable crimes, murder, and auto/ motor theft from 2016 to 2020.

- Status of Policing in India Report 2023

The efficiency of technology, the ability to filter and select at the click of a button through a very large database, all threatens to further criminalise those who are already marginalised

Now with the added
“objectivity” of technology

As technology becomes more complex, it becomes harder to understand how the output is produced, where there might be bias in the system, or how to interpret the results. Even engineers designing AI technology admit that they cannot interpret the inner workings of the machine.

Thank you! … aaaand discuss ….

- How do you think inclusion of technology in policing might impact hijra / kothi / transgender folks?
- What are the risks entailed in government surveillance?
- What level of surveillance is required/ justified?